



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2011 NATIVE SEED COLLECTING!

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division, Stewardship Unit is once again in need of volunteers to harvest native prairie seed at several state parks and recreation areas in southern Michigan. Seed from a number of wildflowers will be collected for later planting by the Stewardship Unit to restore native tallgrass prairie, lakeplain prairie, and oak savanna ecosystems. Some seed from prairie grass plants such as big bluestem, little bluestem, and Indian grass, will be collected as well.

Prior to European settlement, southern Michigan supported vast expanses of prairie and oak savanna. Today prairies and savannas persist only in tiny remnant patches, many in state parks. Seed collection is a key step in restoring these lost landscapes, but it is one that requires many hands. This is a unique opportunity to learn about these rare landscapes while doing something positive to help restore and preserve them for future generations. Its fun, easy, and a wonderful experience for the entire family and people of all ages!

WORKDAY DETAILS:

Specific meeting times and locations for each workday are available online at www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers then click "Calendar of Volunteer Stewardship Workdays". Please register by mailing or faxing the registration form available on the webpage above.

We ask that volunteers bring a clean, dry, empty gallon milk jug and wear sturdy shoes. Hiking distance will vary. Prairie remnants are often very sunny places so a hat, sunscreen and drinking water are also recommended. If you are allergic to bees, please bring your sting relief kit. An adult must accompany children age 5 to 15 and a parent or guardian must sign a liability waiver for anyone under 18.

If you belong to a group or organization that cannot attend weekend workdays, special arrangements may be made for weekdays.

- For **southeast** parks contact Laurel Malvitz-Draper at malvitzl@michigan.gov or 248-359-9057 for more information.
- For **southwest** parks (Fort Custer and Grand Mere) contact Heidi Frei at 269-685-6851 x147 or freih@michigan.gov or for more information.

Algonac SP

October 8th

Meet at the main entrance in the day use area parking lot.

Fort Custer RA

October 15th & 23rd

October 19th (Wednesday)

Meet at the park headquarters.

Grand Mere SP

October 8th

Meet at the main entrance parking area (off Thornton Rd.).

Highland RA

October 8th, 16th &

November 6th

Meet at the Silo Field Trail Area parking lot on Livingston Road.

Island Lake RA

October 12th (Wednesday)

Meet in the parking lot by the JC Penney store at Green Oak Village Place mall, take US 23 - Lee Road exit.

October 15th & 29th

Take the only park road (approx. 15 minutes from entrance); look for signs (half mile to 1.5-mile hike)

Pinckney RA

October 16th

Meet at the Halfmoon Lake parking lot on Hankerd Road.

Sterling SP

October 15th & 22nd

Meet at the park headquarters.

Waterloo RA

October 9th

Meet on Waterloo Rd just west of M-52. Roadside parking.